

WILL MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS UNION OF TWO CHURCHES

(Continued From First Page.)

ing; Dr. J. A. McArthur, of the Gujranwala Presbytery; Rev. E. E. Campbell, of Rawal Pindi Presbytery; Dr. M. M. Brown, of Sialkot Presbytery, all of India, and Rev. W. H. Reed, of the Middle Presbytery of Egypt.

Dr. Robert M. Russell, of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., tonight was unanimously elected moderator of the United Presbyterian Assembly in session here. Dr. Russell succeeds Dr. Hugh H. Bell, of San Francisco.

The name of Dr. Russell was placed before the assembly by Dr. C. P. Proudfoot, of Des Moines, Ia. No other nominations were made and Dr. Russell was declared elected by acclamation. The incoming moderator was presented with a handsome gavel made from wood taken from the first United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, founded at Serravallo, Pa. In making this presentation Dr. G. A. Beattie, of Atlanta, spoke of the proposed union between the United Presbyterian Church and the Southern Presbyterian Church and suggested that the merged organization should be called the United Presbyterian Church.

ASSEMBLY MEETS TO-DAY.

Missionary Spirit Will Characterize Gathering of Southern Body.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Atlanta, Ga., May 14.—Representing a membership of more than 250,000, the fifty-third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, familiarly known as the Southern Presbyterian Church, will convene at 11 o'clock Thursday morning in North Avenue Presbyterian Church. Every indication points to an assembly of unusual interest and one that will result in the making of important history for the church. This assembly will be characterized with the missionary spirit to a degree far more distinct than has been true of any previous assembly of the church. Three facts emphasize this truth. First, during the past year the Southern Presbyterian Church has contributed more largely to foreign missions and to home missions than during any year in the history of the church. Second, this church has sent a larger number of missionaries to the foreign field during the past year than ever before. Third, every missionary obligation of the church has been met in full the past year, and for the first time in nine years the church is free from missionary debt and has a substantial surplus in the missionary treasury, which to begin the work of the new year in that department of the church. Naturally, marked interest centers about the election of moderator for this assembly, but nothing definite is known regarding who will be the minister or ruling elder to receive for this year the highest honor within the gift of the church. There are candidates for this honor, and while it is probable not less than four commissioners will be placed in nomination, and that more than one ballot will be necessary to elect the moderator, each man is in the hands of his friends, and there is little or no assembly rumor as to the choice of the presiding officer of the highest court of the church.

Regarding the question of the union of the United Presbyterian Church with the Southern Presbyterian Church, which question is to come before this assembly, it is safe to say that the report from the commissioners of these two churches to be presented within the next few days will simply suggest some basis of union and will recommend that the entire matter be left under consideration of the church until the meeting of the General Assembly of 1914. Then if it is found that the basis of union involved in the report has approval favorably to the church, the General Assembly of 1914 may hand down to the presbyteries an opinion regarding the question, and if the presbyteries by a three-fourths majority vote approve the recommendation, then the General Assembly of 1915 will be authorized to take definite action regarding the question. It is not likely, therefore, that any step regarding the actual union of the two churches will be taken before the General Assembly of 1915.

It is anticipated that when the bills and overtures are presented to the assembly a number of these will favor the restoration to the assembly's committee of systematic beneficence the power which was taken from the committee by the assembly of 1912, and on account of which several members of this important committee resigned membership on the same day immediately after this action was taken.

The opinion of some of the commissioners is that the account of the fact that joint meetings of the three general assemblies which will open here to-morrow will be held on several evenings, and that these meetings will be longer than is usual by the case, as the joint meetings will defer to some extent the completion of the

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Executive Secretary of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief



REV. H. H. SWETS, D. D.

business which will clear the docket of each assembly. Others express the opinion that the business of the day session will be dispatched more rapidly than usual, with the joint evening session in view, and that the dissolving of the assemblies will not be deferred longer than usual. Much depends in this connection upon the moderators to be elected and the rapidity with which the committees discharge the business committed to them, as well as to the length of the sessions and the actual work of the assemblies. The report of the four executive committees of the assembly will be presented as follows:

Foreign Missions

Never in the history of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church has the annual report submitted to the General Assembly been so filled with facts of encouragement and cause for thanksgiving as is true of the report this year. The total receipts for the year for foreign missions are \$622,000, a balance of \$7,557 in the treasury. It is with special gratitude that the committee reports the missionary debt of more than \$100,000 has been paid.

More than \$300,000 of this large gift of the church to foreign missions was contributed during the month of March last, in connection with the very memorable centennial celebration of the birth of David Livingstone. During the year forty-one new missionaries have been added to the force of workers of the church in the foreign field, this being the largest number the church has sent out in one year, and the support of these was pledged in advance. Of the new missionaries sent out, twenty were sent to Korea, fourteen to Africa, two to Brazil and five to China. The amount required for the support of missionaries in the foreign field remains at \$1,000 for each annually.

There has been a loss of sixteen foreign missionaries during the year; three have died and thirteen have retired from the work.

The foreign mission work of this church is operated in Africa, Brazil, China, Cuba, Japan, Korea and Mexico. There are special needs to be met in each field, reinforcements, especially, are needed in each, and the committee asks for an appropriation of \$572,000 for foreign missions the coming year. The report calls attention to the misapprehension in the minds of many of the members of the church regarding the Assembly's new financial plan, and shows that the future work of the executive committee of foreign missions will be seriously hindered unless the Assembly makes it plain that the new plan "neither necessitates nor contemplates the diversion to other causes of funds heretofore given by the societies and the churches to foreign missions, but rather the enlistment in behalf of other causes of our people's heretofore unused means and energies. An educational department of the executive committee of foreign missions was established during the past year, and Rev. H. E. Williams, D. D., was elected educational secretary. During the year the church contributed, with the consent of the committee, devoted his time to the work of the campaign of evangelism and stewardship. Through their organized societies, the women of the church contributed to foreign missions \$77,728 the past

year, in addition to what they contributed through the ordinary church collections. There are enrolled in the church at present 1,900 women missionary societies and 800 children's societies, the latter being included in the work of the women's department.

No section of the committee's report is filled with so much encouragement and cause for gratitude as is that which states that during the year 3,315 additions to the church by baptism have been reported from the foreign field, being an average of thirty-one additions as the result of the work of each ordained missionary.

Evangelistic Work

No report to be presented to the general assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church is of more vital importance than the report on evangelistic work, which will be submitted by Rev. J. E. Thacker, D. D., of Norfolk, who is the special evangelist of the assembly. Important additions in numbers have been made to Dr. Thacker's report since the compilation of the annual report of the executive committee of home missions, which will be presented to the general assembly on Thursday, and which will contain a number of facts relative to Dr. Thacker's work from April 1, 1912, to February 15, 1913. The report of Dr. Thacker for the full year, from April 1, 1912, to April 1, 1913, will show that during this time he has delivered 492 sermons and addresses; as the result of his ministry, 8,493 members of churches have been added to the church by letter and 1,307 additions on profession of faith; five young men have signed their intention of studying for the ministry.

Dr. Thacker has held the important relation of evangelist to the general assembly since October, 1903—three and one-half years, and the report of his work for this entire time presents the following figures of special interest to the entire church: sermons and addresses delivered, 1,622; members of the church reconsecrating themselves to God, 30,593; additions to the membership of the church by letter, 1,713; additions on profession of faith, 6,922; number of young men expressing the purpose to enter the ministry, twenty-three.

Able assisting Dr. Thacker in all of his work are Mr. and Mrs. George A. Fisher, of Boston, Mass., whose rich field of reinforcement in music are so highly recognized throughout the South, as well as in the North. Mr. Fisher as soloist and Mrs. Fisher as pianist need to be heard but once in order to be convinced of their attraction.

Christian Education

The report of the executive committee of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief will show first that seven separate accounts are kept in the office of the committee, and that the total amount received for the work of the committee from all sources during the year was \$97,256.64, against \$71,173.31 received last year, giving an increase of \$14,083.33.

All obligations of the committee have been met; the pledges to beneficiaries and to candidates for the ministry have been paid as have been the pledges to the assembly's home and school, and the amount due for

meeting other obligations of the work. The increase of candidates for the ministry has continued, and there are now 492 of these candidates under the care of the presbyteries. All of these have had to look to the church for aid in completing their education, either during their college or seminary course. Among this number of candidates are men who are preparing for work in all of the mission fields of the church, home and foreign.

Reports from the presbyteries show urgent need for at least 250 more men for the work of the ministry in the home field of the church, and the funds for the salaries of these recruits are ready as soon as the men can be secured. An additional 200 will be in demand for work in the foreign mission fields of the church in the near future.

The maximum amount of aid the committee is able to give annually to each candidate for the ministry to aid in the completion of college and seminary course, is \$100, and it has been necessary to decrease this yearly during the past three years on account of the increase of candidates and the lack of proportionate increase in the fund for this purpose.

This committee has rendered every assistance possible to the various synods of the church in giving special oversight to the Presbyterian youth in the student body of State institutions of learning. Statistics show that one out of every six or seven students in the State institutions of the South is a Presbyterian or comes from a Presbyterian home, and this committee is using special effort to see that the best pastoral oversight is given to these students.

Regarding the work of ministerial relief, the report of the committee will show that during the year aid has been given to sixty-one ministers, 160 widows and distressed orphans, these beneficiaries representing 229 needy homes. The oldest minister who is a beneficiary is eighty-seven years of age, and has given sixty-four years of service to the church; the youngest minister on the roll of beneficiaries is forty-one years old, and is an invalid.

The average amount given to the beneficiaries who are ministers was \$25.61 and to the widows, \$13.87; each orphan received \$75, making the amount sent to each needy home \$186.55 for the year, or 44 cents per day to each family.

During the past year six ministers and three widows of the beneficiary roll have been removed by death. Special appeal is made to the church to increase and complete as rapidly as possible the endowment fund of \$500,000 for ministerial relief, which fund has reached \$200,000.

The report shows that the instructions of the assembly of 1912 regarding the assembly's home and school at Fredericksburg, Va., have been followed and carried out as faithfully as possible. The institution, known as Fredericksburg College, has been separated entirely from the home and school, and all of the property owned by the church at Fredericksburg is rented, with the exception of two cottages, which are occupied by widows of ministers.

Tornado Sweeps State, Leaving Dead in Its Wake

(Continued From First Page.)

afternoon wind clouds formed. They were quickly swept along from south-eastward to the northwest by a violent wind, carrying destruction with it. At Seward the clouds turned into a typical twister, which swept through the residential portion, the business section, however, escaping unscathed. In Omaha thousands of citizens, remembering the Easter cyclone, spent half an hour in basements, cellars and other places of refuge.

The Omaha Commercial Club to-night telegraphed offers of assistance to Seward, and the Governor has been called upon for State assistance, as well as for State militia to patrol the town until order is restored.

The district hit heaviest by the storm to-day lies to the southwest of Lincoln, in York, Fillmore and Seward Counties. The districts are thickly settled.

Race With Tornado. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Walcott, Neb., May 14.—In a race between a tornado and a Union Pacific gasoline motor car filled with passengers this evening the motor car made such speed that it escaped the main part of the storm, but was overtaken and destroyed, and partly wrecked. Six of the passengers received injuries from flying glass and debris, but none was fatally injured. After the encounter the car was able to continue under its own power.

The motor car was en route from Central City to Lincoln, and when on a long stretch of track the crew saw the tornado which had just wrecked Seward and was heading toward them. The storm was following the path of the railroad tracks. The motorman put on full speed and for more than a mile raced the cyclone for a curve, which was taking them from the danger zone.

When the curve was reached the motor was leading by a head and got astir around it. The storm struck it. The storm struck the car a glancing blow, smashed every window and piled the frightened passengers in a heap on the floor. Six were cut by glass, but none was dangerously hurt.

Thief Guilty to Jail. Douglas Beales, colored, was sent to jail for sixty days yesterday morning in Police Court for a bicycle, valued at \$35, from W. O. Dorsett, Jr.

Marriage License. A marriage license was issued in the clerk's office of the Hustings Court yesterday for a bride and groom, named Annie Elvora Denny, both of Baltimore.

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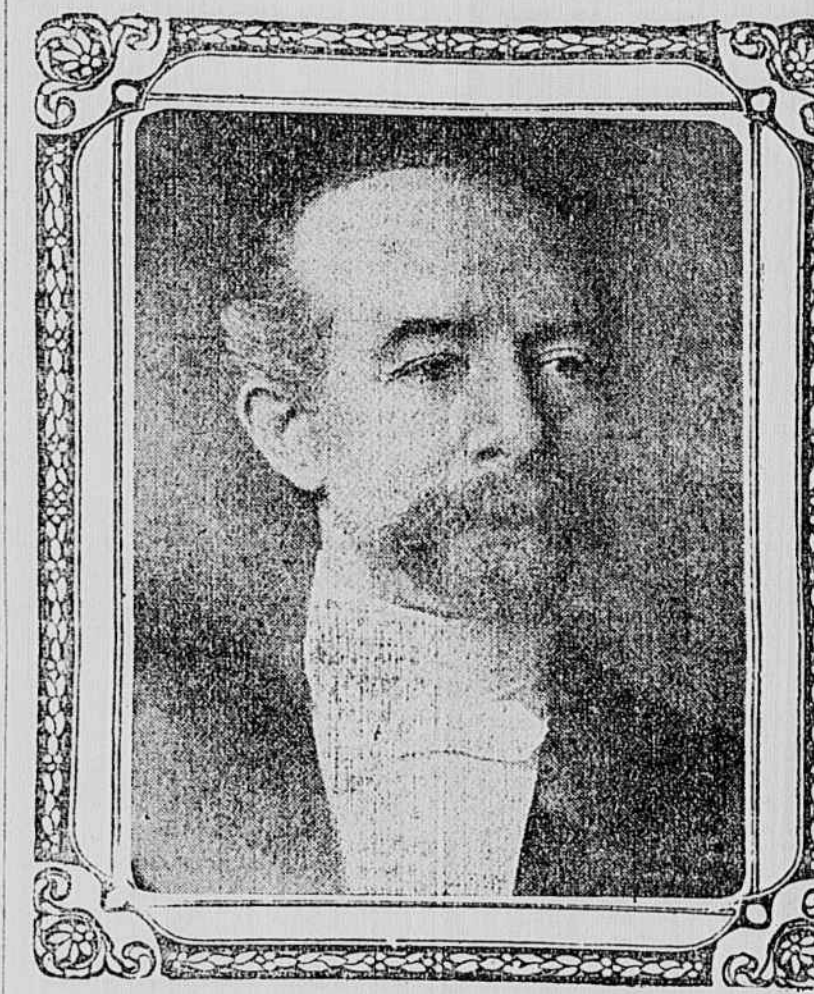
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Next week we shall publish in this paper a list of the institutions in this district which are prepared to supply you with "A.B.A." Cheques.



Executive Secretary of Foreign Missions



REV. EGBERT WATSON SMITH, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn.

MEETING IN INTEREST OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Prominent Leaders in This Branch of Work Deliver Addresses at Pre-Assembly Conferences of Southern Presbyterian Church.

BY MAMIE BAYS.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Atlanta, Ga., May 14.—Three important

preassembly conferences of the

Southern Presbyterian Church have

claimed the time and the close attention

of commissioners and visitors to-day.

One of these conferences was in

the interest of Christian education; another

in the interest of evangelism, and the

third was a joint conference of the

executive committee of foreign missions,

the presbyterial chairmen of

foreign missions, and the laymen's missionary

movement, and was an all-day

meeting in the interest of foreign missions.

Three prominent leaders in the

foreign mission work of the church

delivered addresses. Rev. Egbert W.

Smith, D. D., executive secretary of

foreign missions; Charles A. Rowland,

chairman of the laymen's missionary

movement, and J. P. McCaffie, chairman

of the assembly's campaign committee

on evangelism and stewardship. Many

other ministers and laymen took part

in the open discussions which formed

the greatest part of the program.

Among the most important conclusions

reached by this conference regarding

the missionary operations of the church

were these:

First. That the missionary literature

should be increased.

Second. That the work of the executive

committee of foreign missions should

not extend to the point of leaving no

work to be done by presbyterial and

synodical committees of foreign mis-

sions.

Third. That the every-member

census for foreign missions should in no

church preclude special appeal and special

offerings to that cause.

Fourth. That the every-member

census for foreign missions should be

separated from the similar census for

other benevolences of the church.

Fifth. Every man, woman and child

in the church should be brought to realize

the great making Jesus, Christ

known to the whole world and should

contribute liberally for the evangeliza-

tion of the twenty-five millions of

heathen people, for whose evangeliza-

tion the Southern Presbyterian Church

is responsible.

Sixth. This church should recognize

the fact that its wealth, \$20,000,000

more, is not its own, but is the property

of the church, and that notwithstanding this

fact the per capita contribution of the mem-

bership at present is not more than

sonary Movement elected for the coming year are as follows: Charles A. Rowland, Athens, Ga., chairman.

E. H. Scharringhaus, Knoxville, Tenn., vice-chairman.

Dr. M. M. H. Hull, Atlanta, Ga., recording secretary.

H. H. Linton, Athens, Ga., treasurer.

An executive committee of seven-

teen was elected also, the members of

the committee representing six States.

On account of the large amount of

other business to be transacted this

evening, the outlining of the policy

of the laymen's movement for the

coming year was deferred until the

final session of the conference, which

will be held Thursday morning pre-

ceding the opening of the general as-

sembly.

OFFICERS CHOSEN

BY ODD FELLOWS

Grand Lodge Then Adjourns to

Meet Next Year at

Lynchburg.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Roanoke, Va., May 14.—The Grand

Lodge, Independent Order Odd Fellows

of Virginia, announced the selection

of the following grand officers:

W. E. Allen, Covington, grand mas-

ter.

Paul P. Dean, Windsor, deputy

grand master.

C. V. Hanger, Amherst, grand war-

den.

Dr. E. P. Turner, Isle of Wight, grand

secretary.

The Rev. J. J. Scherer, Marion, grand

chaplain.

The Rebekah assembly also elected

grand officers to-day for that auxiliary

as follows:

President, Mrs. Cora Benedict, Big

Stone Gap.

Vice-President, Mrs. Ida Belle Adams,

Lambert's Point.

Warden, Mrs. Minnie Grey, Blacks-

burg.

Secretary, Mrs. Annie McCoy, Nor-

folk.

Business sessions of both lodges

were held to-day, and then adjourned

to meet next year at Lynchburg.

DOES NOT APPLY TO

SOUTH CAROLINA

Supreme Court Holds Webb Bill

Not Effective Against Im-

portation of Liquor.

Columbia, S. C., May 14.—An opinion

rendered to-day by the South Carolina

premise Court holds that in the absence

of specific legislative prohibition against

the importation of liquor from another

State, the Webb bill does not apply to

this State. It is held that the Webb bill

is to prevent infraction of State

statutes through interstate traffic. The

court's decision is against the

Southern Express Company, which refused

to deliver liquor consigned to a South

Carolina point.

DISCUSS WEIGHTS

National Conference in Washington Attended

Colonel John W. Richardson, Register of

the Land Office and ex-officio State

Sealer of Weights and Measures, went to Wash-

ington last night to attend the eighth annual

conference on Weights and Measures,